

importance of notifying FDA when adverse events and product problems are observed, it is expected that more reports will be submitted. The figures shown in the table are based on previously calculated estimates and actual 1995 reporting experiences. The number of reports recorded above were annualized based on actual 1995 experience and an anticipated 10-percent-per-year increase in reporting over the next 3 years. There are zeroes in the CFSAN row because mandatory reporting using Form FDA 3500A is not required.

Dated: December 11, 1996.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy  
Coordination.

[FR Doc. 96-32070 Filed 12-17-96; 8:45 am]

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[Docket No. 96E-0380]

**Determination of Regulatory Review  
Period for Purposes of Patent  
Extension; VISTIDE™**

**AGENCY:** Food and Drug Administration,  
HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined the regulatory review period for VISTIDE™ and is publishing this notice of that determination as required by law. FDA has made the determination because of the submission of an application to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, for the extension of a patent which claims that human drug product.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and petitions should be directed to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 12420 Parklawn Dr., rm. 1-23, Rockville, MD 20857.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Brian J. Malkin, Office of Health Affairs (HFY-20), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, 301-443-1382.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Pub. L. 98-417) and the Generic Animal Drug and Patent Term Restoration Act (Pub. L. 100-670) generally provide that a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years so long as the patented item (human drug product, animal drug product, medical device, food additive, or color additive) was subject to regulatory review by FDA before the item was

marketed. Under these acts, a product's regulatory review period forms the basis for determining the amount of extension an applicant may receive.

A regulatory review period consists of two periods of time: A testing phase and an approval phase. For human drug products, the testing phase begins when the exemption to permit the clinical investigations of the drug becomes effective and runs until the approval phase begins. The approval phase starts with the initial submission of an application to market the human drug product and continues until FDA grants permission to market the drug product. Although only a portion of a regulatory review period may count toward the actual amount of extension that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks may award (for example, half the testing phase must be subtracted as well as any time that may have occurred before the patent was issued), FDA's determination of the length of a regulatory review period for a human drug product will include all of the testing phase and approval phase as specified in 35 U.S.C. 156(g)(1)(B).

FDA recently approved for marketing the human drug product VISTIDE™ (cidofovir). VISTIDE™ is indicated for the treatment of CMV retinitis in patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Subsequent to this approval, the Patent and Trademark Office received a patent term restoration application for VISTIDE™ (U.S. Patent No. 5,142,051) from the Institute of Organic Chemistry & Biochemistry of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic and Rega Institut, and the Patent and Trademark Office requested FDA's assistance in determining this patent's eligibility for patent term restoration. In a letter dated October 24, 1996, FDA advised the Patent and Trademark Office that this human drug product had undergone a regulatory review period and that the approval of VISTIDE™ represented the first permitted commercial marketing or use of the product. Shortly thereafter, the Patent and Trademark Office requested that FDA determine the product's regulatory review period.

FDA has determined that the applicable regulatory review period for VISTIDE™ is 1,533 days. Of this time, 1,266 days occurred during the testing phase of the regulatory review period, while 267 days occurred during the approval phase. These periods of time were derived from the following dates:

1. *The date an exemption under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) became effective:* April 17, 1992. The

applicant claims April 16, 1992, as the date the investigational new drug application (IND) became effective. However, FDA records indicate that the IND's effective date was April 17, 1992, which was 30 days after FDA received the IND on March 18, 1992.

2. *The date the application was initially submitted with respect to the human drug product under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act:* October 4, 1995. The applicant claims September 29, 1995, as the date the new drug application (NDA) for VISTIDE™ (NDA 20-638) was initially submitted. However, FDA records indicate that NDA 20-638 was submitted on October 4, 1995.

3. *The date the application was approved:* June 26, 1996. FDA has verified the applicant's claim that NDA 20-638 was approved on June 26, 1996.

This determination of the regulatory review period establishes the maximum potential length of a patent extension. However, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office applies several statutory limitations in its calculations of the actual period for patent extension. In its application for patent extension, the applicant seeks 305 days of patent term extension.

Anyone with knowledge that any of the dates as published is incorrect may, on or before February 18, 1997 submit to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) written comments and ask for a redetermination. Furthermore, any interested person may petition FDA, on or before June 17, 1997 for a determination regarding whether the applicant for extension acted with due diligence during the regulatory review period. To meet its burden, the petition must contain sufficient facts to merit an FDA investigation. (See H. Rept. 857, part 1, 98th Cong., 2d sess., pp. 41-42, 1984.) Petitions should be in the format specified in 21 CFR 10.30.

Comments and petitions should be submitted to the Dockets Management Branch (address above) in three copies (except that individuals may submit single copies) and identified with the docket number found in brackets in the heading of this document. Comments and petitions may be seen in the Dockets Management Branch between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Dated: December 4, 1996.

Stuart L. Nightingale,

Associate Commissioner for Health Affairs.

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